

Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project

BLM

Overview

In 2008, Power Company of Wyoming LLC (PCW) applied to the Bureau of Land Management (BLM) for right-of-way grants to construct, operate, maintain, and decommission the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Energy Project (CCSM) on federal lands within the CCSM Project Site. On June 29, 2012, the Final Environmental Impact Statement (EIS) for the CCSM Project was issued, and on October 9, 2012, the Record of Decision (ROD) was signed. In the ROD, the BLM determined that more than 200,000 acres within the CCSM Project Site are suitable for wind energy development subject to the requirements described under the Selected Alternative.

The CCSM EIS and ROD did not identify individual turbine or infrastructure component locations. Subsequent environmental assessments (EAs) tiered to the EIS analyze site-specific plans of development. The first EA analyzed the CCSM Project infrastructure components. The second EA addresses the Phase I Wind Turbine Development.

The BLM released the EA for Phase I Wind Turbine Development to the public on March 9, 2016 for a 30-day comment period as part of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA) process. The BLM is conducting two public meetings to provide an opportunity for you to ask questions about the EA and provide comments on the EA. Your comments should cite specific actions or impacts, and offer supporting factual information or data. The BLM will consider and incorporate public comments as appropriate in the EA. The public comment period will close April 22, 2016.

Public Meetings

March 28, 2016
Saratoga Town Hall
110 E. Spring Ave.
Saratoga, WY
4:30-6:30 p.m.*

March 29, 2016
Jeffrey Center
315 W. Pine St.
Rawlins, WY
4:30-6:30 p.m.*

**Each meeting will include a presentation at 5:30 p.m.*

Site-specific Environmental Assessment for Phase I Wind Turbine Development

The Phase I Wind Turbine Development for the CCSM Project consists of 500 wind turbine generators along with associated facilities and infrastructure designed to provide 1,500 megawatts (MW) of clean, renewable wind energy. The Phase I Wind Turbine Development is located in the westernmost portions of the Chokecherry and Sierra Madre Wind Development Areas; each component has been micro-sited to avoid and minimize impacts to natural and cultural resources while meeting the goals and objectives of the CCSM Project. In addition to the 500 wind turbine generators, the Phase I Wind Turbine Development includes approximately 200 miles of access roads, 75 miles of overhead collection and transmission lines, 10 meteorological towers, four water stations, three long-term facilities (the Operations Center, Chokecherry Maintenance Building, and Sierra Madre Maintenance Building), and temporary facilities including the construction camp and laydown yards. The long-term facilities are required to operate and maintain the CCSM Project, while the temporary facilities will be used to meet the CCSM Project needs during construction.

High Desert District-Rawlins Field Office, Wyoming



How to Provide Comments

Please complete a comment form and place it in the comment box or give it to a BLM representative at the public meeting. Comments can also be submitted in the following ways and must be received by April 22, 2016 to be considered in the EA:

By facsimile: 307-328-4224
 By email: blm_wy_pcw_windfarm@blm.gov
 By U.S. Mail: Bureau of Land Management
 Rawlins Field Office
 Heather Schultz, Project Manager
 P.O. Box 2407
 1300 N. Third St.
 Rawlins, WY 82301

Before including your address, phone number, e-mail, or other personal identifying information in your comment, please be aware that your entire comment, including your personal identifying information, may be publicly available at any time. While you may request we withhold your personal information from public view, we cannot guarantee we will be able to do so.

Making Substantive Comments

Substantive comments help ensure important issues are identified and addressed in the EA.

- Be specific. Give defined reasons, not broad statements or opinions.
- Share site-specific observations, data, or knowledge.
- Detail important environmental and community factors.
- Be timely. Comments must be received by April 22, 2016.

NEPA Analysis Approach

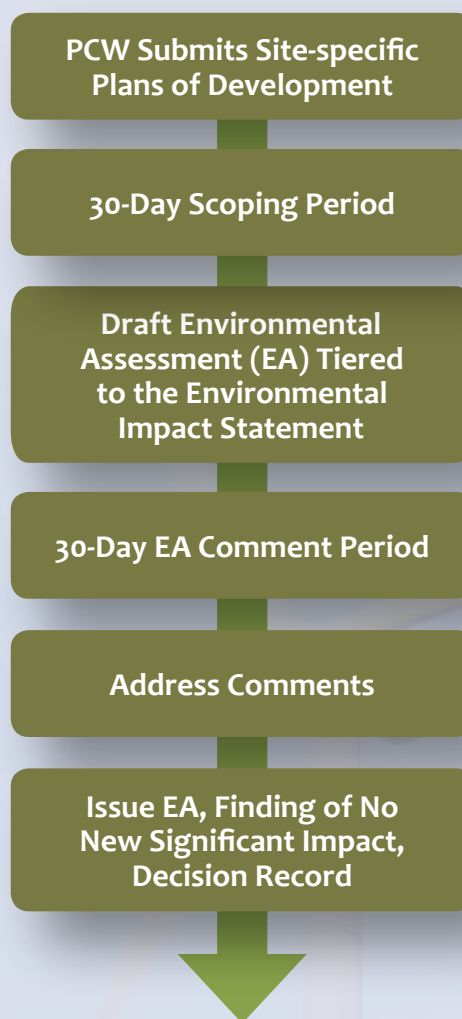
The EA incorporates the analysis contained in the CCSM Project Final EIS and ROD. The CCSM Project Final EIS analyzed and disclosed environmental impacts, including significant impacts to some environmental resources. The EA screens the site-specific plan of development against the analysis conducted in the CCSM Project Final EIS to determine if there are any additional or new environmental impacts that were not previously analyzed and disclosed and whether or not these impacts are significant. The EA does not re-analyze the effects on resources that were fully analyzed in the project-wide CCSM Project Final EIS.

The Phase I Wind Turbine Development EA analyzes cultural resources, national scenic and historic trails, paleontological resources, range resources, soils, vegetation, water resources, wildlife, and special status species. No new significant impacts beyond those disclosed in the CCSM Project Final EIS were identified during the analysis.

Additional information is available on the project website at: <http://www.blm.gov/wy/st/en/info/NEPA/documents/rfo/Chokecherry.html>

Or on the ePlanning website at: <https://eplanning.blm.gov/epl-front-office/eplanning/planAndProjectSite.do?methodName=renderDefaultPlanOrProjectSite&projectId=58548>

Site-specific NEPA Tiering Analysis



Site-specific Environmental Assessments	
Phase I Haul Road and Facilities	EA 1 9/2013 to 12/2014
West Sinclair Rail Facility	
Road Rock Quarry	
Phase I Wind Turbine Development	EA 2 12/2013 to 5/2016
Phase II Haul Road and Facilities	EA 3 (dates to be determined)
Phase II Wind Turbine Development	EA 4 (dates to be determined)

